

REMARKS

The present application includes Claims 139-167, 190, 192-198, 203-205, 277, 278, 280-284, 286-289, 291 and 293-295.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

In this section of the Office Action, Claims 139-161, 166-167, 280-281, 283-284 and 293-295 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Atsmon et al (US 6607136).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. First, the PCT application of which the instant application is a national phase of, was filed before Atsmon (in October 1999, while Atsmon was filed in May 2000). Furthermore, Atsmon is a continuation in part of the instant application (as PCT/IL99/00525, noted in the front page of Atsmon). Therefore, Atsmon cannot be considered prior art to this application and this rejection is moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103


In this section of the Office Action, Claims 139, 154, 162-165, 277-278, 282, 286-289 and 291 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reggiani (US Patent No. 5280267) in view of Atsmon.

However, as noted above, Atsmon cannot be considered prior art, so the combination of Atsmon with Reggiani is moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above foregoing, and considering that the Examiner found the arguments presented prior to this office action persuasive, it is submitted that all the claims pending in the application are allowable. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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